Columbia/Snake Mainstem TMDL
Process and Schedule

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

August 28 , 2002

Geographic Scope

- Columbia River from the Canadian border (RM 745.0) to the Pacific Ocean.
- Snake River from it's confluence with the Salmon River (RM 188) to it's confluence with the Columbia River (Columbia RM 324.3).

TMDLs under this effort

- Columbia/Snake River Mainstem Temperature TMDL
- Lower Columbia River Total Dissolved Gas TMDL
- Lake Roosevelt/Mid Columbia/Snake River Total Dissolved Gas TMDL

State and Tribal Agencies with a CWA role in the Project Area

States

- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Washington Department of Ecology

Tribes

- Colville Confederated Tribes (EPA promulgated standards)
- Spokane Tribe of Indians (tribal approved standards)
- Other Columbia Basin Tribes - federal trust responsibility

Roles of Key Players

- Oregon and Washington developing dissolved gas TMDL for Lower Columbia - 9/2002
- Washington developing dissolved gas TMDL for Mid-Columbia and Lower Snake TMDL - 6/2003
- EPA is taking technical lead on temperature TMDL - expected to be completed 6/2003
- EPA developing dissolved gas TMDL for portions within tribal waters
- EPA in lead to work with tribes

Consultation and Coordination with Columbia Basin Tribes

- July 2001 Letter to Tribal Chairs committing to tribal consultation and coordination process and providing an update on process
- Grant to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
  - September 2001 Meeting/CRITFC
- February 2002 letter to Tribal Chairs notifying them of the opportunity to consult
- Contract Support to Upper Columbia Tribes
- Other meetings - Spokane, Umatilla

Lake Roosevelt TDG TMDL

- **"Tribal waters" require EPA to develop this effort**
- **Build upon temperature modeling efforts**
- **Washington Ecology committed to coordinate with the Tribes**
- **Spokane and Colville are key - near term discussions to scope out this effort**
- **Meeting with Bureau at Grand Coulee - November 5/6, 2001**
- **Coordinate with Transboundary Gas Group**

Process with State, Tribes and Others

- Monthly Meetings in 2001 and 2002
  - Invite states, tribes and others
  - Good participation
- Technical workgroup - Temperature TMDL
- Meetings with others
  - PUDs, Pulp and Paper, Irrigation Districts
  - Congressional Staff - D.C. and Region
  - Action Agencies - Meeting on Draft Preliminary- September 4
  - ESA Coordination/Consultation

Public Process

- **Pre-decisional informational meetings to share information as TMDLs are developed**
- **July 2001 - Spokane and Portland**
- **October 2001 - Lewiston and Pasco**
- **March 2002 -Vancouver and Toppenish**
- **September/October 2002 - Lewiston, Kennewick and Portland**

EPA Website - Public Access

- Extensive compilation of materials
  - Fact Sheets
  - Technical Reports
  - Important Correspondence
  - Public Workshop Summaries
  - Will contain the Draft Preliminary Temperature TMDL - after 9/13

Temperature TMDL Schedule

- **September 13 - Draft Preliminary Temperature TMDL**
- **September 25,26 and October 1 - Public workshops**
- **Early November - Draft Temperature TMDL**
- **November - January 2003- 90 day comment period/formal public hearings**
- **February - April 2003 - Respond to comments**
- **May 2003 - Final TMDL**

Scope and WQS

- Entire Columbia River in the U.S. Snake River from the Salmon River to the Columbia.
- WQS allow very small temperature increases over natural temperature due to human activity.
- OR WQS for the lower river are the most stringent and drive the TMDL.

Scope and WQS (cont.)

- The TMDL is established to prevent temperature increases greater than 0.14 °C in the lowest reaches when site potential temperature would exceed 20 °C from July through September or 12.8 °C from October through June.

TMDL Allocations

- The rivers are divided into 19 reaches.
- Each reach receives a gross allocation in terms of temperature increase over site potential.
- These allocations are very small (less than 0.01 °C) (see Figure 1).
- Dams are allowed no temperature increase over site potential.

TMDL Allocations (cont.)

- Point Sources with individual permits are generally allowed their existing discharge.
- Point Sources with general permits are allowed their existing discharge.
- Tributaries are allowed their existing loads.
- Little future growth is available.
- When point source permits are re-issued, the facilities may receive tighter limits than in the TMDL after a technology analysis and a mixing zone analysis.

Why no allocation for dams and full allocations for point sources?

- Dams have much greater impacts on temperature than point sources.
- Limiting point source loads would not benefit the dams.

Impacts to river users

- Point sources will receive permit limits for temperature and are at risk of having their loads reduced.
- Dams are required to make drastic improvements in their effect on temperature. Puts them between a rock and a hard place.

What Comes After TMDL?

- TMDL provides strong technical/scientific framework for future decisions
- Possible Role of EPA
  - Corps/DOJ - Water Quality Plan
  - Bureau of Reclamation
  - Office of Water/CEQ
- Comprehensive Columbia River Strategy (fish tissue, Superfund, future toxics TMDLs)